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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

Industrial Conditions

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- "Among the new words introduced into the Polish language by the Communist Polish regime is brakorobstwo, a term meaning poor quality of production. For some time this aspect of industrial life has been attracting Polish press attention but this autumn [1953] it has been a constantly recurring theme. While the peoples of the Soviet Union and certain Moscowdominated countries have been hearing about the good times coming because of eased restrictions, all the Poles have heard about is the inferior goods they are turning out.
- 2. "They are told that the electric light bulbs produced by the great factory in Pabianice shatter the first time they are put into use. Numerous complaints are lodged against the furniture factories in Szczecin, Ostrow, and other furniture-producing centers. For almost a year the shortage of razor blades has been a source of complaint, wry humor, and condemnation of that industry's management, whose best proposal for betterment of the situation has been the 'reconditioning of used blades.' That program is greeted with

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the comment, not made in the press, however, that in a country slated to produce five million tons of steel annually, such a solution seems a bit strange.

- 3. "Cement factories complain that approximately one thousand bags from the State Paper Plants in Krakow disintegrated within 24 hours after they had been filled with cement, although they had been guaranteed by a letter accompanying the shipment. The sugar refineries are in difficulties. Pressure is put upon them to produce more than one million tons of sugar, the amount the regime must have to fulfill so-called treaty obligations, and have a minimum quantity for home use. Yet the plants are without the promised equipment, in new machinery or repairs, necessary to that production, and because of bad management of coal shipment during the summer, cars that were allocated for shipment of sugar beets from farms to the mills are still hauling coal. The outlook for attainment of the one million ton-goal is not bright, but whatever it is the Poles know that Moscow will get the 300 thousand tons it ordered.
- 4. "Visits of Polish executives and managers to Moscow are frequent. Reporting one such trip, engineer Jan Aniola, director in chief of the great new steel plant, Nowa Huta in Krakow, said: 'Conferences in Moscow are short, to the point, concrete. There is no time for idle talk.' Since it is universally known that representatives of Communist regimes are called to Moscow to get instructions, orders if bluntly put, this statement is accepted as a good characterization of such 'conferences.' Aniola assured the regime press representatives that the USSR would send Nowa Huta sorely needed equipment even before the date promised in the agreement. He also expressed his thanks to the director of the great Soviet foundry 'Zaporozstal' for the care he is taking of the 25 Polish engineers, mechanics, and master workmen who are now under instruction in that plant.
- 5. "Regime spokesmen have stressed the fact that 70 per cent of the equipment necessary to put the farm machinery factory near Poznan into operation has been delivered by the Soviet Union. This will be the largest factory in Poland engaged in the production of farm equipment, but it will not be ready for full operation until 1955.
- 6. "Another industry in Poland that Moscow has taken over without pretense of legality is shipbuilding. Ships that have even had their names in Polish, as recently in the case of the 'Gdynia' and 'Szczecin,' have been taken over, the Polish names painted out and the Russian painted on. The Polish yards are not able to supply ship machinery and for this and other equipment the boats are taken to the Danish port of Aarhus, it is reported, and it is there that the Soviets most often take over. Since the West's ban of sale of strategic materials to the Soviet Union and its satellites, this confiscatory action has become more frequent.
- 7. "An official Polish declaration states that East Germany occupies second place in Polish foreign trade, only the Soviet Union ahead of it. Of Polish exports to East Germany, coal constitutes 50 per cent; of imports, machinery and equipment make up 50 per cent. How completely this trade is directed by Moscow is evidenced by the Polish Communist regime's renunciation of further German war reparations payments, manifestly on Soviet orders. The lame explanation given by the regime did nothing to lessen the popular indignation."

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